

4. Technology inputs

The Computer Training facilities have been created in various institutes to impart computer application training to SFS and Range Forest Officers as well as to improve office functioning.

Poaching of Animals in Madhya Pradesh

2806. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of Chinkaras, Neelgai and Tiger goes on unabated in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether photographs showing poachers with Tigers killed inside Bandhabgarh National Park appeared in newspapers;

(c) if so, the action taken against the accused for hunting wild animals; and

(d) the action taken against the Forest Officials for dereliction of duty in allowing hunting freely in the forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Incidences of poaching of wild animals including Tiger, Neelgai etc. in Madhya Pradesh come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. As reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, the poachers shown in the photograph have been identified. One of the accused has been arrested by Rewa Police on 28.3.2000. The State Government has handed over the case to the Criminal Investigation Department of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) No conclusive evidence has been found against the forest officials for dereliction of duty.

Air Quality Index System in Delhi

2807. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the number of vehicles skyrocketing and the pollution levels becoming worse, a smog filled atmosphere appears to have become a permanent feature in the capital;

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(b) whether due to heavy increase in number of vehicles in the capital, there is an urgent need to develop Air Quality Index System in the capital; and

(c) whether the air quality in the capital is also becoming bad to worse; if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such rising trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The air quality in the capital is being monitored through a network of automatic and manual monitoring stations. A project has also been taken up for development of air quality index for urban situations.

(c) No, Sir. The increasing trend of air pollution has been checked due to various steps taken which include the following:

- Ban on plying of buses more than 8 year old and pre-1990 autos and taxies from 1st April, 2000.
- Ban on sale and supply of loose 2-T Oil in petrol retail outlets in Delhi effective from 31.12.1998.
- Progressive tightening of emission norms for motor vehicles.
- Supply of better quality of fuel having low sulphur content.
- Adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as auto fuel.
- Strengthening of air quality monitoring and surveillance system.
- Shifting of industrial units in conforming industrial areas.
- Closing of hazardous industrial units.

Safeguarding the Environment

2808. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the planning made to safeguard the environment and make villages and cities clean, green and safe for living?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): Policy documents on National Conservation Strategy and Abatement of Pollution have been evolved. Environmental laws and regulatory mechanisms have been put in place for